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# News Release

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## **EPA and DEQ Public Service Announcements for Returning Residents**

Baton Rouge – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality have made available a series of audio public service announcements. As part of our on-going effort to inform people returning to hurricane damaged areas, we encourage area broadcasters to download the PSAs. The audio files are available in MP3 format at: <http://www.epa.gov/region6>.

The PSAs cover issues relating to concerns about potential exposure, and appropriate measures to follow, regarding lead and asbestos, hazardous materials, carbon monoxide, cleaners, water issues, and gases.

Information continues to be provided to media outlets to assist people returning to their homes and businesses within the impacted areas. Individuals are reminded to continue exercising caution and to be aware of hazards.

State and federal authorities are providing regularly updated sampling and monitoring data on flood water, sediment and air quality at <http://www.epa.gov/enviro/katrina/>. The website has been updated allow data to be searched by address or zip code.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), EPA and local state health officials - along with many local organizations - continue to advise individuals to take prudent and cautionary measures as they return to hurricane damaged areas. Household hazardous chemicals, structural damage, high levels of bacteria in flood water, mold and many other unknown pollutants may pose risks to people entering areas affected by the hurricanes, and people should make every effort to limit their exposure. Individuals should ensure that personal hygiene measures are taken, such as not eating or drinking until after washing with soap and water or other types of disinfectants, such as disposable wipes.

People who experience any health problems should seek immediate medical attention. EPA, CDC, and Louisiana state health officials urge returning citizens to exercise caution and limit exposure to dust, flood waters and other sources of chemical exposure.